

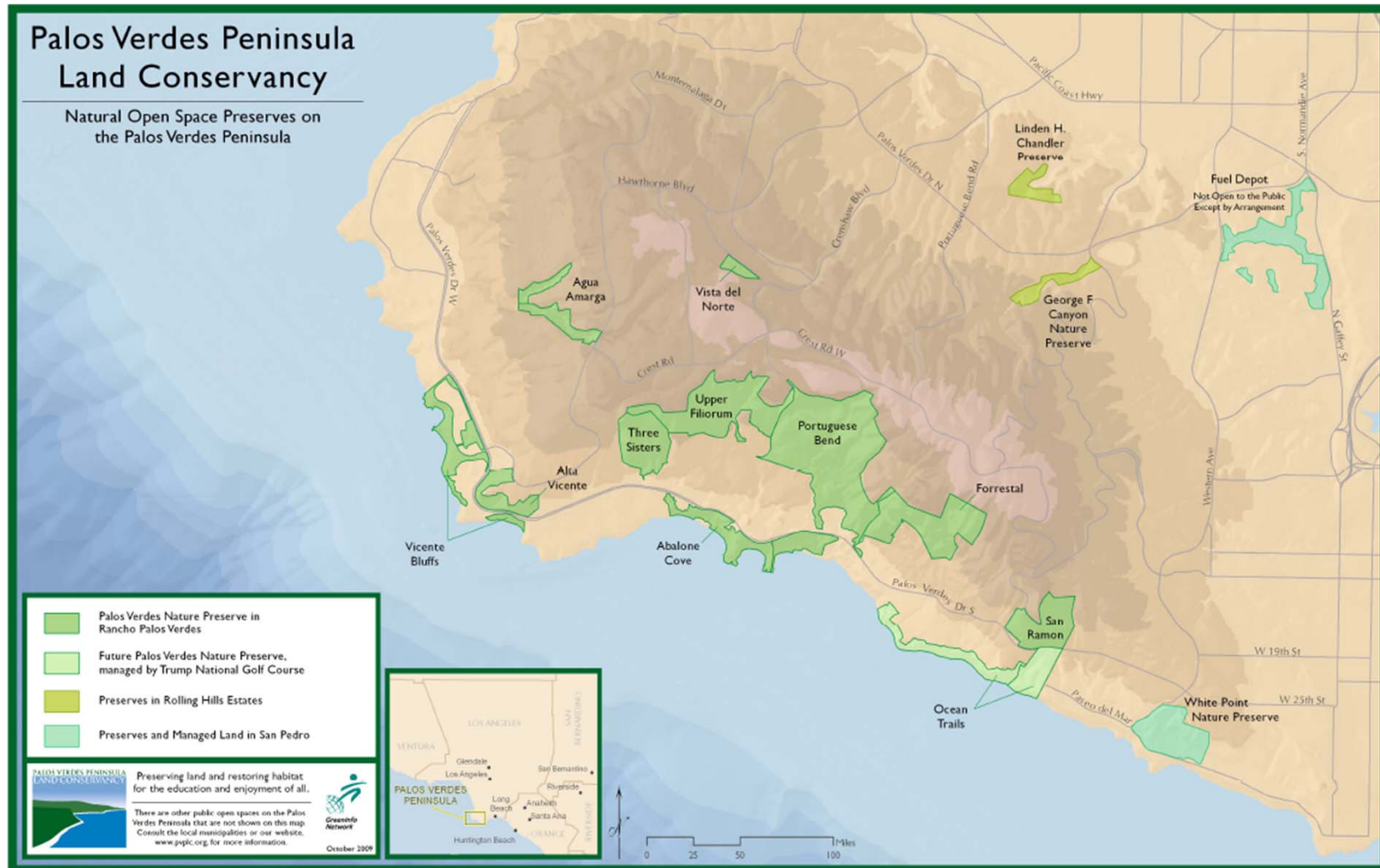
BUILDING A VOLUNTEER TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



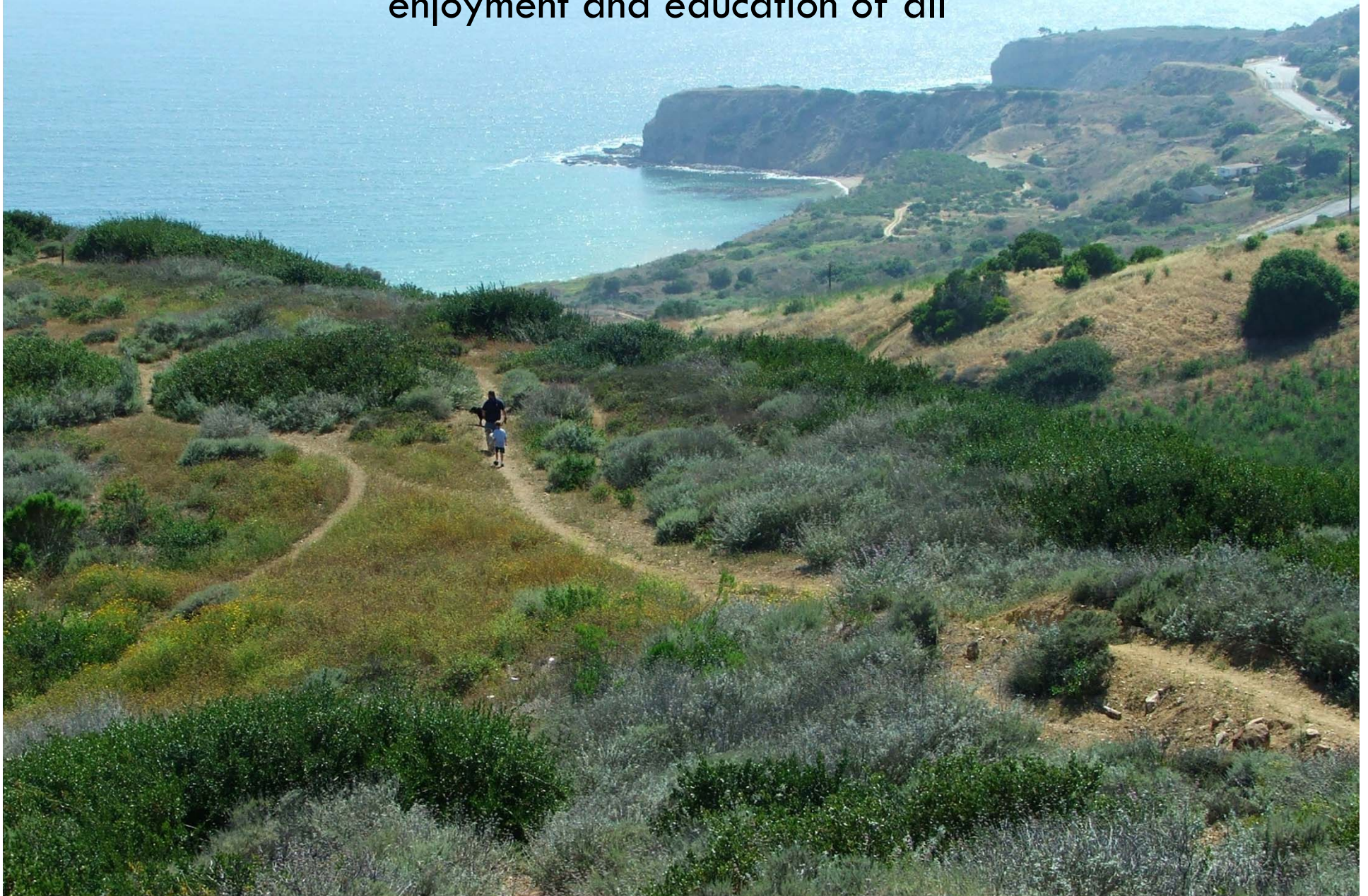
ADRIENNE BOSLER

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY

Preserving Public Lands



“Preserving land and restoring habitat for the
enjoyment and education of all”



Palos Verdes Peninsula Ecology



Accessing the Open Space

- Preserve access must be balanced to reduce impacts on the delicate ecosystem and to preserve cultural and natural resources.



Philosophy

- ▣ A trail must maintain a balance between resource protection, positive experience and maintenance value
- ▣ It can be an effective tool to influence trail user behavior and support resource protection while providing a positive experience
- Unfortunately this is ideal, but not the norm



Trail Crew Program Description

- Without trail maintenance funding built into management agreement, volunteers are needed to maintain the 42-mile trail system
- Volunteer Trail Crew objectives
 - ▣ Develop group of trained volunteers capable of effective maintenance in priority areas
 - ▣ Baseline program to grow into additional volunteer opportunities
 - Adopt-a-trail projects
 - Volunteer leadership
 - Mechanized trail clearing
- Program is combination classroom and field work to build skills
 - ▣ Indoor class introduces program overview and common knowledge base
 - ▣ Field work emphasizes “how and why”
 - ▣ Students must demonstrate working knowledge of skills to pass

Roles and Responsibilities

- Program is responsibility of PVPLC

- PVPLC

- Volunteer recruitment
 - Captures all volunteer data
 - Scheduling and volunteer coordination
 - Facilitates trail workdays with tools, water and supplies
 - Seeks grant funding
 - Provides liability coverage

- Kurt Loheit – 2010 American Trails Org Lifetime Achievement Award recipient

- Teaches all classroom and field skill exercises
 - Identifies field projects
 - Provides input to schedule and grants

Skill Development

- ❑ 50 hours of combined classroom and field training time
- ❑ Graduation requires demonstrated capabilities in key areas
 - ❑ Safety
 - ❑ Terminology
 - ❑ Assessments
 - ❑ Tool use
 - ❑ Basic tread maintenance
 - ❑ Water diversion techniques
 - ❑ Brushing and pruning
 - ❑ Basic survey
 - ❑ Trail closure



Classroom Introduction



- Introductory indoor class utilizes a combination of resources



Field Exercise

- Field exercises develop core maintenance skills
 - Tread Repair and Stabilization
 - Brushing/Pruning
 - Water control
 - Rock
 - Tool use
 - Survey
 - Closure
- Each starts with a description of the work to be performed
- Each ends with a discussion on what were the results and where things can be improved
- Concentration is on skills, not amount of completed work

Tread Repair

Slough/Trail Creep



Before



After

Tread Repair - Before and After



Water Control

- Water is recognized as the most common source of erosion
- Multiple sessions include:
 - ▣ Identifying source of water
 - ▣ Strategize where water should go
 - ▣ How to divert the water:
 - Outslope
 - Water bars
 - Grade dips
 - Culverts
- Requires multiple field sessions

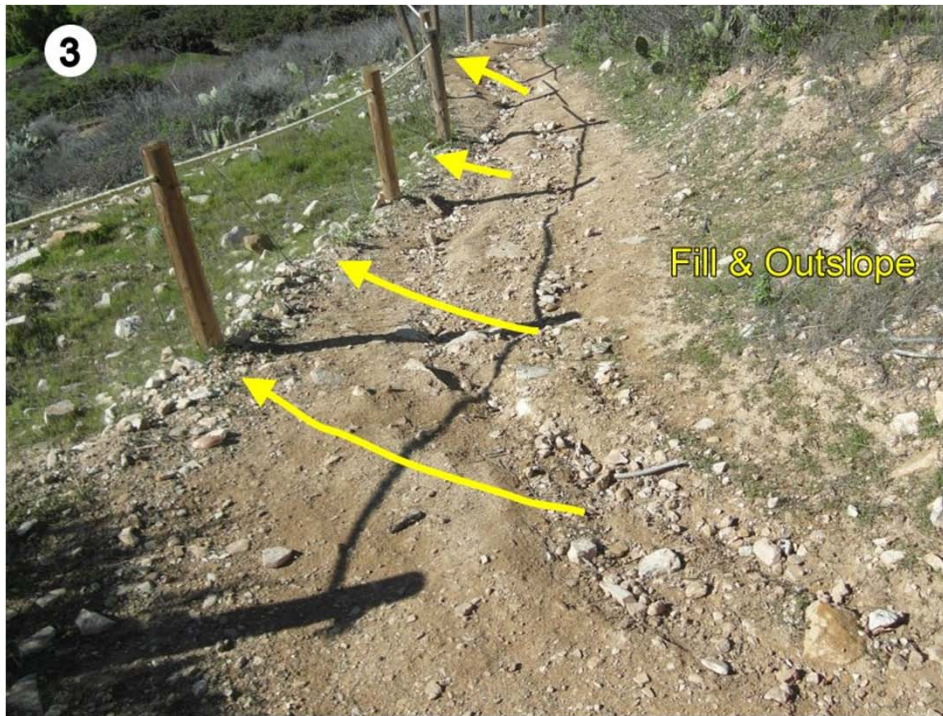


Discussion on grade dip construction

Water Control and Tread Repair



Water Control and Tread Repair



Brushing/Pruning

- Brushing and pruning demonstrate natural dynamics
 - ▣ “Vegetation grows”
- Diversity of skills
 - ▣ Minimize impact to the vegetation
 - ▣ Safety considerations for public
 - ▣ Avoiding manicured look
 - ▣ Clearing Limits
 - ▣ Disposition of material
 - ▣ Proper tool use

Relentless lemonade berry shrubs



Rock Work



Survey

- Intended for basic survey
 - ▣ Why grade is important
 - ▣ How to measure grade
 - ▣ Clinometer and Abney level



Trail Closure Methods



Results

- Stats from 2008 to date:
 - ▣ 85 volunteers have attended classroom; 23 currently active
 - ▣ Of that, 8 have graduated and 2 very close
 - ▣ 45 classes
 - ▣ Over 1780 hours of total participation
- Positive feedback has generated a growing degree of interest
- Wide diversity of participants
- Recruitment by word of mouth



Mechanized Trail Clearing



- Trail Crew volunteers solicited to build upon trail skills and train to operate “weed whackers”
- Orientation field day teaches how to operate machinery, safety, trail clearing standards and plant ID
- Weekly trail clearing on weekday mornings alongside Stewardship Technicians

Future Goals



- Skill building = greater satisfaction and increased participation
- PVPLC is continually developing the Trail Crew program to facilitate more trail projects to meet increasing usage.
- Emphasis on Leadership

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VIEW TRAIL CREW PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PVPLANDCONSERVANCY

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy